



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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October 29, 2008

**LOCAL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD ENTICEMENT**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 43-year-old Eric Burdett Tucker, of Alamogordo, New Mexico, pled guilty to an indictment charging him with Attempted Coercion and Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Sexual Activity. By pleading guilty, Tucker admitted that on July 11, 2008, he began chatting with a person on the internet that he believed was a 14 year old female. However, the 14 year old female was an FBI Special Agent acting in an undercover capacity. Tucker subsequently traveled from Alamogordo, New Mexico to El Paso, Texas to engage in sexual conduct with the person he believed was a fourteen year old female. When Tucker arrived in El Paso, Texas on August 1, 2008, FBI Special Agents arrested him.

Tucker faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life; minimum mandatory 5 year term of supervised release and a maximum term of supervised release of life; and a maximum fine of \$250,000. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Laura Gregory as part of the Project Safe Childhood initiative.

Project Safe Childhood (PSC) aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children. The threat of sexual predators soliciting children for physical sexual contact is well-known and serious; the danger of the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography is equally dramatic and disturbing. The response to these growing problems must be coordinated, comprehensive, and robust. It must aim to investigate and prosecute vigorously, and protect and assist victimized children. At the same time, it must recognize the need for a broad, community-based effort to protect our children and to guarantee to future generations the opportunities of the American dream.

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